



NORTHCOTE WALKS | DEAN CLOUGH RESERVOIR



Follow in the footsteps of Alfred Wainwright and discover the view that inspired the greatest fell-walker of them all to lace up his boots and head for the hills.

AT A GLANCE

How far? 7km / 4.5 miles

How long? 2 hours

How hard? Moderate: A couple of steep climbs with a few stiles to cross. Some muddy sections.

Dog-friendly? Keep dogs under close control and ideally on a lead.

Refreshments: The Lord Nelson, York Village.

Shortcut: To avoid the steep initial ascent and shave a couple of miles off the walk, there is limited parking near point 3.

START

1. From the main hotel entrance, cross Northcote Road and continue uphill on the pavement to cross the busy A59 with care via the pedestrian refuge. Follow the railings left, then head right up the wooded lane and at junction, turn right along pavement under the railway bridge.

2. After 250m, cross the road at the zebra crossing and head left up Whinney Lane. After 300m, where the lane forks right, take footpath on the left, climbing steeply through the



woods. Continue along the narrow and often muddy path between the residential gardens for 400m to reach the village of York and continue left up the Lane.

As you climb through the village, the views open up north to offer glimpses of the Bowland Fells, up the valley to Pendle and across the border into Yorkshire. At the crossroads, head straight over past the postbox and continue climbing up the lane.

3. After 100m, where the lane heads left, cross stile and follow the right hand path heading diagonally across the ridge towards the solitary tree, then join the drystone wall heading right to the stile. Cross stile and head straight across the field. Go over the next stile and descend straight ahead towards Dean Clough reservoir.

4. At the track, head right to start a wide loop around both reservoirs. Beyond the woods to the right, above the western end of the reservoir, follow the contours slightly left to join the path heading downhill to reach a kissing gate. Continue through the kissing gate and then left through the gate onto the path around the reservoir.

It was this view of Pendle brooding on the skyline above the reservoirs that first inspired a youthful Alfred Wainwright to venture from his home in Blackburn into the hills. With friends, He formed the Pendle Hill Club to explore the iconic massif, kindling a lifelong passion for fellwalking. Wainwright later described this view as: 'a little piece of Lakeland in Lancashire'.

5. Continue around the reservoir, past the wood and the causeway to the southeastern corner, then turn left to cross the dam. At the end of the dam, continue straight ahead up the stony track beside the wall. After 400m, at metal gate, fork right, passing through another gate into the farmyard, then right onto the track and left down the lane.

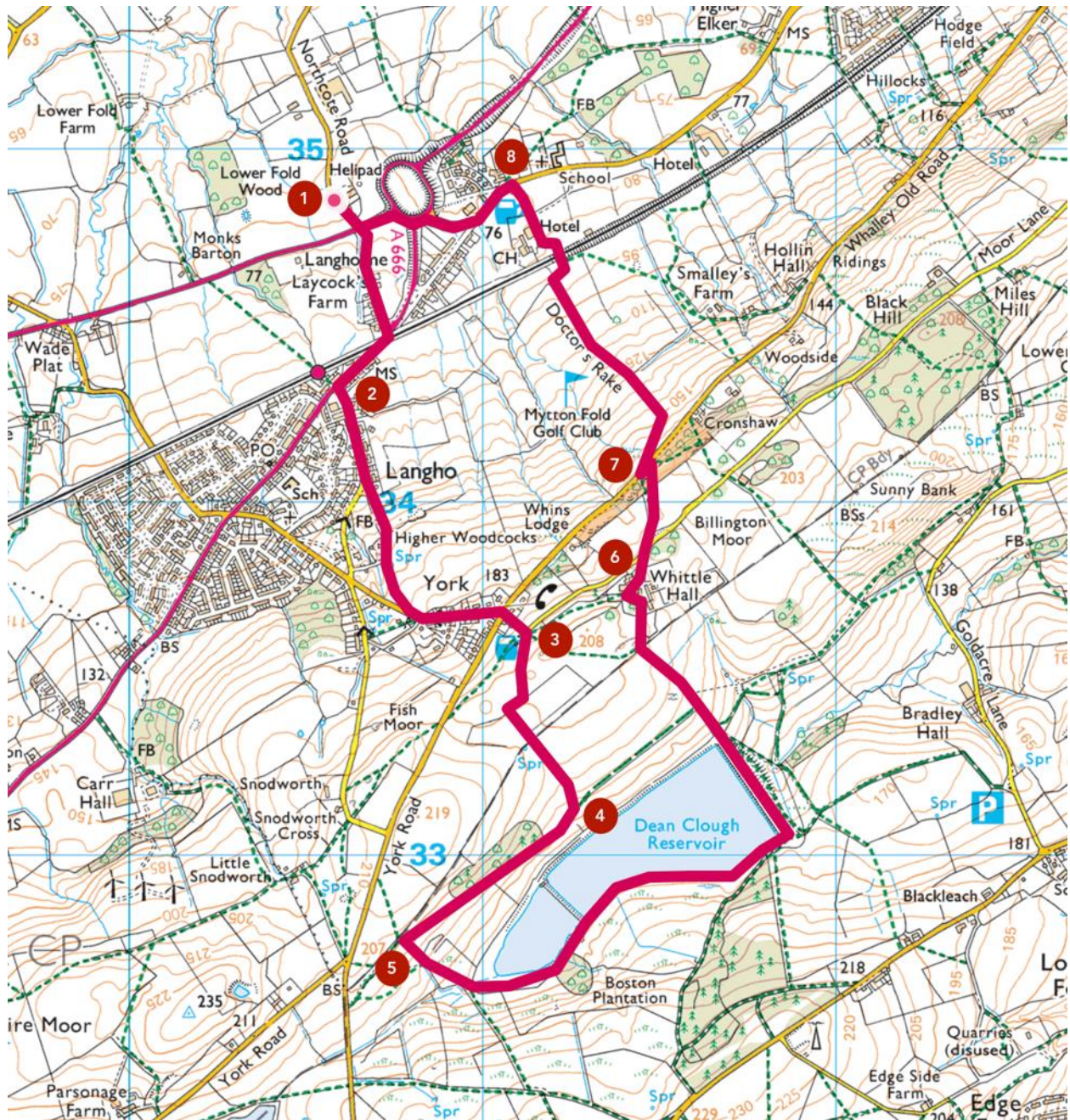
6. At junction, head right then fork slightly left along faint path beside the wall and over stile next to the metal gate. Continue beside wall and over stile and descend half right through the woods to the road. Head briefly left and cross the road with care, heading through the wooden gate onto Mytton Fold Golf Course.

7. Join the gravel path as it curves initially right then back left and heads downhill. As the path curves left again next to a mature alder tree, continue straight downhill following the black and white marker posts. Descend on the woodland path and head right then left over the railway bridge and straight on past the hotel to the main road.



8. Head left on the pavement, past the garage then fork right onto the narrow footpath to the roundabout. Cross over the first exit with care and take the second exit to reach the railings and cross the busy A59 back into Northcote Road and the hotel.





To download and follow this route on your smartphone, click on the link:

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/9185659/Northcote-Walks-Dean-Clough-Reservoir>